

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 7th July 1952.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at four of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Seizure of lands from the occupation of landless poor.

* 20 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints that lands formerly in the occupation of the landless poor had been “seized and assigned to Congressmen”;

(b) whether the Hon. the Chief Minister advised Congressmen at Salem who had been assigned lands to consider voluntary surrender of such lands; and

(c) whether any “political sufferers” have surrendered the lands assigned to them in Salem district; and if so, the number of such persons and area surrendered?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“(a) When the scheme for assignment of land to political sufferers was given effect to before this Ministry took office, some complaints were received and they were examined and disposed of on their merits. Instructions have been issued to see that no assignment of the nature referred to is made, that would deprive any landless poor person, or Harijan or Ex-serviceman of the land in his possession as sivoijamadar.

“(b) Yes.

“(c) Two persons have surrendered 15,60 acres of land assigned to them as political sufferers.”

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW:—“In view of Articles 294 and 298 of the Constitution, will the Hon. the Chief Minister consider the question of taking legal advice whether the assignment of lands made after the 26th January 1950 does not contravene the said Articles of the Constitution? I shall explain the position to the Hon. the Chief Minister. Articles 294 of the Constitution says that all property which immediately before the commencement of the Constitution vested in His Majesty, shall vest in the State or the Union Government as the case may be and Article 298 says that no property shall be assigned or granted except in accordance with the law. In view of this, will the Hon. the Chief Minister consider the question of taking legal advice, whether assignments made after the 26th January 1950 are against the said Articles?”

[7th July 1952]

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I shall consult legal advisers."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"May I know whether the instructions have been issued about the landless poor not being deprived of their lands due to these assignments, after some 10,000 assignments have been made?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Instructions were given as soon as the present Government's policy was decided upon. The number of applications or assignments which occurred before the policy was decided upon, may be any number. But there was no delay between the formulation of the policy and the issue of the instructions."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"May I know, whether assignment of lands to political sufferers has been made since the date of the general election during the period when the Caretaker Government was in charge?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"If statistical information is required with reference to particular periods such as is mentioned by the hon. Member, namely during the period of the Caretaker Ministry and before the present Ministry took office, notice must be given."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"In view of the scanty response to the appeal made by the Hon. the Chief Minister for voluntary surrender of lands assigned to political sufferers, have the Government under consideration any legislation to undo the mischief done during the previous Ministry?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I have already answered that. Sir, apart from the mischief and all that which are assumptions to which I do not wish to be a party, I have already said that any question of taking away lands which had been legally vested in a private party would have to be accompanied with readiness to pay compensation therefor and that is why, the Government will have, under the Constitution, to consider whether legislation will be possible. At present his advice will mean taking the lands and giving compensation therefor through the taxpayers' money and I do not know if that would be feasible; but if the hon. Member would draft a Bill, I should be very glad to examine it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"It will not be my duty to draft a Bill until the Chief Minister and I exchange positions. May I know if it is one of the conditions of the grant of land to a political sufferer that he should continue to belong to the Congress Party; not only should he have taken part in the Independence movement, but he should continue to be a member of the Congress party?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I am not aware of any such conditions having been stipulated in the assignment. As far as I am able to guess, such a condition would have been quite inappropriate, so inappropriate that it could not have been made."

7th July 1952]

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ In view of the answer given on the floor of the House on the 22nd December 1949, I would like to know whether this policy which is now enunciated by the Hon. the Chief Minister is a new policy or whether it is the old policy of the then Government? On the 22nd December 1949, Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao asked whether it was one of the conditions of the assignments that the political sufferer should continue to belong to the Congress Party and the Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddi answered ‘ Yes.’ And this is what happened afterwards ? I shall read the relevant portion from the proceedings of the Council.”

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“ Is it not a fact, Sir, that this Government on the floor of the House said, some time back, that even though people do not at present belong to the Congress, they would nevertheless get assignment of lands if they are political sufferers ? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Subsequent to that, or previous to that—I do not remember when—orders were passed saying that they must continue to belong to the Congress organization.”

“ Then the Hon. Minister made the following statement in reply to Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi's question whether the Government had stated that lands would be assigned even though they did not belong to the Congress party and there was then no question of continuance of loyalty to the party.

“ I believe I made that statement soon after my assuming office. Probably, I made a mistake then. For some time after that, or I believe, even before I made that statement, there was an order which said that a man should continue to be loyal to the Congress party before he qualified himself as a political sufferer to get an assignment of land to him. Sir, if my previous statement had caused a misapprehension on the matter, I take this opportunity to clearly state that it is necessary that a political sufferer should continue to be loyal to the Congress party to get an assignment of land to him.”

“ In view of the categorical statement made on the floor of the House, may I ask whether the policy now enunciated by the Hon. the Chief Minister represents a change in policy ? ”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—“ The hon. Member knows that the policy, the details of which he has referred to is dead and it is no longer in force. If what has been read truly represented the policy of the Government, I do not know under what circumstances the Minister concerned was led to make such an answer; but so far as I am concerned and this Government are concerned, there is no such policy and I cannot explain things done by the previous Ministry, with reference to a policy which is no longer alive.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ In that case, will the Hon. the Chief Minister reconsider all these applications which were rejected on the ground that the applicants did not belong to the Congress party? It was stated on the floor of the House that Mr. E. V. Ramasami Periyar who was one of the applicants was not given an assignment of land for the reason that he did not belong to the Congress party though at the time he was in the movement he belonged to the organization. Will the Hon. the

[7th July 1952]

Chief Minister reconsider all such applications including that of Mr. E. V. Ramasami Periyar? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" With due deference to the hon. Member, I do not think that these are all supplementary questions; he is intelligent enough to know that we have decided not to make any such assignment and so, there is no question of reconsidering old requests on the basis to which he has now referred. It is merely a debating point and the hon. Member must rest content that whoever may apply now, under the present policy, even if the member belongs to the Congress party twice or thrice over, he cannot get it and there is no question of reconsidering orders of rejection."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—" May I ask, Sir, what the use is of saying that they will not get any assignment now so long as 11,000 assignments have been made and they are left undisturbed? So long as these assignments are allowed to remain in the hands of these political sufferers, he will be taken by the public to acquiesce in the lands passing into the hands of Congress political sufferers."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" I am grateful for the observation of the hon. Member; but I have not heard any complaint regarding that."

Community Projects in the rural areas.

* 21 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Community Projects are proposed to be carried out in the rural areas of this State and if so, how many such projects are proposed to be commenced and at what centres;

(b) what the estimated cost of the schemes is and what part of the cost is proposed to be borne by America and what part by this State Government; and

(c) what the details and particulars relating to each of the Community Projects in this State are and how long the Projects will take to be completed?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (a) Six Community Projects are proposed to be executed at the following places:—

(1) Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal Area (Kurnool, Sirvel, Nandyal, Nandikotkur and Koilkuntla in Kurnool district and Cuddapah, Proddatur and Jammalamadugu in Cuddapah district).

[7th July 1952]

(2) Coimbatore (Gobichettipalayam, Erode, Bhavani and Dharapuram).

(3) Malabar (Palghat).

(4) East Godavari (Kakinada, Ramachandrapuram, Peddapuram and Pithapuram).

(b) South Kanara (Karkal, Mangalore and Coondapoor).

(6) Madurai (Nilakottai, Melur and Mathurai).

“(b) According to the draft outline of the Community Projects basic type, each project is estimated to cost Rs. 65 lakhs during the first three years. The Government of U.S.A. have agreed to contribute a sum of Rs. 50 million dollars for the execution of all the Projects in India which are 55 in number. The share of expenditure on each project by the State Government is estimated at about Rs. 12 lakhs for the first three years.

“(c) The work is now in the preliminary stage of survey of existing amenities and facilities in the selected areas. Schemes have to be prepared on that varying basis. The projects are to be completed within a period of three years from commencement.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—“ May I know whether the State Government have heard anything from the Union Government as to what the United States of America expect by way of return for the money expended by them? ”

4-15
p.m.

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ There is no question of communication, Sir. They expect no return.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—“ In that case, may I know, how this giving away something for nothing by the Americans is to be reconciled with their principle that the greatest motive force in the world is self-interest? ”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ I do not think Sir, you will ask me to answer that question.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—“ Have the Government considered the desirability of informing the Government of India that these Projects had better be stopped with a view to prevent charges of ingratitude later on, if this country did not take kindly to the American way of life? ”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ This matter, Sir, is totally outside the scope of this House and if the policy of the Government of India does not please my hon. Friend, he is entitled to correspond with the Prime Minister of India on the subject.”

[7th July 1952]

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—" May I know whether this Government have informed the Government of India that it hurts the self-respect of the people of this country to accept charity from other countries? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" If the hon. Member had doubts as to our own self-respect in this matter, I would have thought he would have begun with it instead of charging the Americans with inconsistency with their own doctrine.

" As regards our self-respect, Sir, it is a matter that may be left to the two Governments and, I am sure, the self-respect of both the Government of India and the Government of Madras will be carefully guarded by the respective Governments in charge."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—" The Hon. Chief Minister just now said that each scheme would cost Rs. 12 lakhs to this State. May I know how much of it will go towards salaries to officials? There is a Director put in charge of Community Projects who is paid about Rs. 2,000 a month and the whole of the expenditure on that Director is payable out of State revenues."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" The hon. Member will be entitled to go into all the expenditure when the scheme is ready but I may inform him straightaway that all Governmental efforts in any department of welfare must involve expenditure on the human material that is employed for running the efforts and any payment made for human effort is not a waste. If we analyse any scheme, everything will come to payment for human services."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—" I find from the Budget Estimate that provision has been made for a Director of Community Projects on the scale of Rs. 2,500 with a special pay of Rs. 200. How does the Hon. Chief Minister justify such a big salary for a person who, after all, is supposed to be in charge of Rural Community Projects? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" This is not a demand for information. It is a demand for my opinion. That I did it is enough to show that I justify it."

Appointment of the Deputy Director of Medical Services.

* 22 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the previous appointments held by the present Deputy Director of Medical Services and his total service in the department;

7th July 1952]

(b) whether there are any seniors to him in the State Medical Service and if so, the circumstances under which their claims were overlooked in making the appointment; and

(c) whether the Madras Public Service Commission was consulted in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“(a) The History of Services, a copy of which is available in the library of the House, will give all the information.

“(b) & (c) Promotions to selection category posts of which the post referred to in the question is one are made on the basis of merit, seniority being taken into consideration only when the merits of the competing candidates are approximately equal. Such promotions within the service are outside the purview of the Madras Public Service Commission and so no reference to it is necessary.

“The Government consider that it is not in the public interest that promotions within the service are discussed in the Legislature.”

Abolition of the reserved seats in the City Corporation Council.

* 23 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to State whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to undertake legislation for the abolition of the reserved seats in the Madras City Corporation Council?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—“There is no such proposals at present.”

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW:—“Will the Government consider such a proposal because, as a matter of fact, the Madras Trades Association and the Chamber of Commerce are small bodies with small members and they get a seat in the Council?”

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—“We are not abolishing it and all reservations are there and they will be there as they are.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR:—“May I know whether the Corporation electoral rolls will be revised and brought up-to-date before the elections?”

• THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—“They must be rearranged according to divisions.”

MR. CHAIRMAN:—“The House will now resume general discussion of the Budget.”

[7th July 1952]

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—cont.

SRI Y. MAHABALESWARAPPA:—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to offer a few remarks opposing the Budget proposals of the Government. The Budget of this State as prepared by the Government really gives a gloomy picture for the rich and the poor alike. So many taxation proposals in so many spheres have been proposed for providing amenities, which are in my opinion insufficient and cannot satisfy the people. Sir, the various branches of administration ought to have been properly provided with finance and much relief ought to have been given to the tax-payers.

“ Now, Sir, I come to Prohibition. To keep up the sentimental prestige of the party in power—I am sorry to say that it is an unfortunate thing—the Prohibition policy has been pursued with a vengeance. It is wrong on the part of the Government to continue it any longer and thus lose a considerable revenue to the tune of about Rs. 20 crores. In persisting with Prohibition, the Government are pursuing a will-o-the-wisp. Sir, it is impossible to achieve success in Prohibition and this has been admitted by foreign experts and their verdict has been published in the Press recently. Sir, if Prohibition is scrapped, as has been the case in regard to food-grains, the Government can save some money. By decontrolling food, the Government effected some savings. So also in the case of Prohibition, the Government can not only get back the money they have lost but can also stop all expenditure over the enforcement of Prohibition.

“ Sir, the Government can also remove control on textiles. If the Textile Department is abolished, there will be some saving to the Treasury. Also, if the posts of Regional Transport Officers are abolished, the Government can save a lot of money. With the savings thus effected, the Government can balance the Budget instead of resorting to further taxation.

“ Sir, I now come to surcharge on land revenue. This move to levy surcharge on land revenue ought to have been put before the public at the time of elections and as the party in power has not put forward such a proposal at that time, they ought not to have thought of bringing such a measure in such a surprising manner. Already the ryots are suffering on account of a diminishing turnover of agricultural produce and the recent slump conditions in the commodity markets of this State, and the international markets have created new difficulties for them. It is impossible for a ryot to pay more money in the shape of land revenue for his holdings. The Government themselves have admitted that large uneconomic holdings are held by big ryots. I wish to emphasise this point that it is an uneconomic enterprise, as the landlords have to depend on rainfall and a good market for their commodities in

7th July 1952] [Sri Y. Mahabaleswarappa]

the home and foreign markets. There is no certainty that they can have regular rainfall and a good market and that their cattle wealth will remain the same. When such is the condition of the ryots, how can the Government levy surcharge on land revenue in the manner proposed. This proposal seems to be really very serious and shocking. I request the Government to drop this proposal in view of these facts and also in view of the famine condition prevailing in various parts of the State in general and in Rayalaseema in particular. If it is not possible to do so, I suggest that instead of adding to the tax burden on the ryot, the Government may as well take away one or two or three per cent of his holdings. You should not expect the ryot to pay more taxes which ultimately he cannot pay. It is a well-known fact that about fifty years ago, agriculturists gave up cultivation of their lands and surrendered their lands to the Government as they could not pay the land revenue due to the Government—at that time the land tax was even less. They also found that it is an uneconomic enterprise. If it is not possible for the Government even to take away some percentage of a ryot's holding, let them levy this surcharge only on nanja (wet) lands and the punja (dry) lands should be exempted altogether.

“ Sir, last Saturday Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddier referred to the method of collection of tax and explained how it should be like the extracting of honey and *makarandam* by the bee. The one sweet thing that he said is that there should be no further taxation on agriculture. I think, there is going to be a change in the method of levying this surcharge. In fact, several members of the Congress Party have spoken against this surcharge and several parties were also invited by the Congress Party yesterday to consider this matter.

“ Sir, in the Ceded districts—which I have the honour to represent here—drinking water and even shady trees are a luxury. The Rayalaseema is still in the grip of famine. Sri Ramaswami Reddier while referring to famine, said that we came to know of it only in 1945. I most respectfully submit that it is not correct. Famine in this State in general and in Rayalaseema in particular could be traced even to the 14th century. Famine conditions are recurring in this area from time to time. The existence of several historic big tanks and ‘Vakkaranies’—known as water reservoirs—constructed as long back as 1452 or thereabout by the then Rulers and philanthropic persons to store and preserve water, whenever Nature is pleased to give rains so that people and cattle can drink water and cultivate lands, reveals that famine conditions were prevailing in those days also. Thus it could be seen, famine conditions are not new to the public of this State. Now the same conditions are rearing their hideous faces in this State and also in other parts of the globe. When conditions are such, I do not know why the Government want to tax agriculture still further.

[Sri Y. Mahabaleswarappa] [7th July 1952]

4-30
P.m.

"Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the enhancement of Sales Tax. In 1937, the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari, while introducing tax on sales for the first time, said: 'This tax is only a flea-bite to the public.' Now this has proved to be a snake-bite to the public and it is being levied in such a venomous manner. The Officers who are put in charge of this Department are unsympathetic to the people. They harass the merchants. They even go to the extent of issuing notice of prosecution if a merchant commits even a minor offence or if there is a small defect in the matter of presenting the Sales Tax return. I had been also one of the victims of this merciless Department and a summons had been issued unnecessarily by this Department. I suggest that an Advisory Committee should be constituted for each district for advising this Department in the matter of administration of Sales Tax as was done in the case of Rationing. If the sales tax could not be abolished, for God's sake, I would request Government not to enhance it. I can only pray that this tax may be abolished and Government make necessary changes in the revised Budget and earn the gratitude of the masses."

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :— "Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are all grateful that the Budget has been presented to us by the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari and our Finance Minister. Of course, the Budget is not a very happy one for social workers; but social workers are large-hearted and they can stand on their own legs without any grant. May I congratulate the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari and the Food Minister on their very bold step in decontrolling food. We, social workers, had opportunities to move and mix with the rank and file of the people and listen to people of all parties, and more so to listen to the poor, on whose behalf so many people speak here in this House. We have listened to the people expressing in unmistakable terms their gratitude and sense of relief at the momentous step taken by Government."

"Sir, I am glad to see that Government have given to our hospitals a few more grants this year. I think, Sir, you know of the Welfare Fund and that it is of great service in many districts for starting more and more tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoria. I am glad that Government have come forward with improvements to hospitals. We have seen that through the Welfare Fund and through the support of the Government, many new hospitals are being built for tuberculosis patients. Unfortunately, this is one of the worst scourges in our State and we cannot do enough to meet it. But I must say that when donors come forward to offer a bed or provide some amenities, the Government regulations are very stringent and are not conducive for the donor giving the gift. For example, in the Tuberculosis Ex-patients' Colony at Tambaram, a Recreation Hall had been offered but the Government rules in regard to the responsibility for the future maintenance of the Hall are not such as would inspire confidence in donors. The red-tape of Government does not permit Government taking over complete responsibility for the management of the Hall. I spoke to the

7th July 1952] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

Hon. Minister for Public Health a few days ago about this red-tape not guaranteeing the maintenance by the Government of the gift. I think Government should relax their rules and assure the people of their responsibility for future maintenance. Only then will people be encouraged to come forward with their gifts and donations. You will then find many more donations for providing beds, wards and for other services to suffering humanity. It was Sri C. Rajagopalachari who laid the foundation stone of this sanatorium when he was the Governor-General of India. The Tuberculosis Ex-Patients Colony was built with funds raised by the Provincial Welfare Fund and was supervised by a special committee appointed by the Government. It was handed over to the Government on 3rd March and was opened by Sir Archibald Nye. Already 24 ex-patients are in the colony and the Printing Press is ready and there are orders pending, but work has not been started, as the Government have not taken over the Press. I would ask Government to look into the matter and have the work started at an early date.

“ We know our hospitals are overcrowded, but still there can be improvement and there can be better attention given to individual patients. While other hospitals are on the way, I regret to say that there is no cancer hospital yet. I am sure the Hon. Member, Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi, who yesterday pleaded for this cause would see to it that it is established soon. The Women's Association has been pressing Government in this behalf and we are grateful to the Government for the promise of land and other facilities. Cancer is taking a toll of several lives in this country. I am sure, if I am not mistaken, it is a more dreadful disease than tuberculosis and is taking a greater toll of lives than tuberculosis. I hope early steps will be taken to open a cancer hospital in our State.

“ I congratulate the Government on building the new Nurses' Quarters. But I would request them to improve the amenities to nurses. The nurse occupies—as I have repeatedly said—an important place in the healing of the patient. The doctor gives the treatment. There are several doctors in this House including the Hon. Chairman and I am sure they will agree with me that however good the doctor's treatment, the after-care and follow-up of the treatment are the nurse's. The salary of nurses is not adequate. In our tours in other States, we see nurses of our State in their hospitals and one feels proud to see them and hear of their work. But, at the same time, we have a dearth of nurses and we would like to see them serving in their own State; and that can be done only by giving them better status and better salaries here. I have heard it said that South Indian nurses are the best, and we feel very proud. But, we feel very sad that their pay is not sufficient. More attention should be paid to their salary, more attention should be paid to their recreation and more attention should be paid to their other conditions also. I would request the Hon. Minister to

[Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

[7th July 1952]

appoint a small committee to improve their status and conditions. It has to be borne in mind that formerly more Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians came to this profession, but now several Hindu girls are joining this profession. So, the food offered should be that which would be conducive to the health of all. If they are not fed well and satisfied they cannot work well. So, if we are to attract more girls to this noble profession, it is up to us to improve their standards.

“ May I congratulate the Government on starting family planning clinics? Since the days of the post-war reconstruction committee, we have been saying that the object of these clinics is not to stop the birth of children, but to teach people the spacing of children. I am glad Government Hospitals as well as civic bodies which feel the need for this are encouraging it.

“ Now, turning to Monegar Choultry, I have referred to this choultry in the previous Budget debates. The old people are as important as the young to the country. The young are growing and need to be nurtured and trained. The old in the sunset of their lives, have also to live and therefore, it is the duty of the Government who are in charge of this choultry to also think of the spiritual and mental needs of the old patients. Why do these people find their way into these homes? Because, in a country like India, the love of family and family ties are stronger than in any other country. In other countries, the families live separately, and the old, if they do not find homes with their children, find excellent homes to live in provided by Government or private agencies. There are homes—both private and Government-owned and they are run on model lines and they provide all the wants of the old people. But here in India only extreme cases find their way into the choultry. They are either paupers or have nobody to support them. I do not blame the administration for this. I feel Government should give a grant to this institution and go into the matter of improving this home. Please do something for this home. I am not only asking for their physical needs but also for their mental and religious needs. The Hon. Chief Minister and I had a talk about this subject some time back and I appeal to him to change the atmosphere of the home and make it a real home for the aged, poor people of our State. There is room for much expansion here.

“ I am glad to note that the Government are on their move to encourage and preserve the beauty spots in our State. I am glad that a Committee has been appointed to improve the facilities for the tourist. The Nilgiris is my home—I was born there and I was always wondering why Government had allowed this beautiful and popular hill station to be neglected. This is a place worthy of any tourist's visit, but we lack the publicity and the facilities for the tourist. I had told the then Minister in charge of this portfolio that there are many ladies and gentlemen in the State who would be interested to assist the Governmental Committee with

7th July 1952] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

suggestions and ideas to improve and popularise places of interest. Our beautiful temples, our seafront, our arts and crafts are our wonderful assets; our mosques and many other beautiful things in Madras State are an attraction to tourists. So we should provide facilities for the ordinary visitor to visit them. I know Government have started a Tourists' Bureau. But it does not fulfil the need entirely. The other day an American visitor was here. She came down to Madras only to visit Mahabalipuram. Her dollars, like ours when we travel abroad, did not permit her to hire a motor car just for herself. She was seeking an opportunity to travel with 2 or 3 other travellers. She waited for 5 days but there was no tourist company which could arrange the visit. I know there are bus services run to Mahabalipuram on Saturdays and Sundays, but it is not every tourist who could wait here till Saturday and Sunday. When I travelled in the United States last year, His Highness the Maharajah of Bhavanagar asked me to visit the beauty spots and places of interest in America and see the publicity and facilities offered to visit these spots and the excellent arrangements to suit everybody's taste and mind. I feel we can provide the necessary facilities also. Perhaps, Government may turn on me and say, 'Oh, Americans have cars and have facilities to go.' Yes, but we have buses and we can make use of buses for this purpose. We have so much to show these tourists, and learn so much from them! If only the Hon. the Finance Minister will help us with finance, we can organise voluntary service, for private agencies can be found for this venture.

"We thank the Government very much for the support they have given to the State Women's Food Council and we are deeply grateful to them for the facilities and encouragement given to us, more so in our desire to serve the Members of the State Legislature. Our desire is to produce wholesome food and teach people in making non-rice preparations. Ever so many people come to us in search of work. We use them as serving boys and cooks. We would like to start a catering department, where we would like to train willing people, not only in serving and in preparing food but also in discipline and so on. If Government will give us a grant we will do something worthwhile for the employment of these people in domestic life.

"Turning now to playgrounds, the Corporation of Madras has to be congratulated on the playgrounds it has for the under-privileged children. I would ask the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue to place some lands which are available in the crowded and congested areas of our City to be used as playgrounds for our children of the slums. One hon. Member said they are living on pavements. I say they live, sleep and die on the pavements. Why should we not give some facilities to those children to build their bodies? The facilities for their health, study and mid-day meals are a charge on the Government. For, we should remember that children are our greatest asset.

[Mrs. M. N. Clubwala] [7th July 1952]

"Now, Sir, I come to juvenile courts. This House, will perhaps feel, I am always talking of experience of juvenile courts. You will forgive me, Sir, for, for 18 years I have seen and worked with young children who come before me. The children who come before me do so because they have no parental care, no love, and are exploited and maltreated. What one learns in these courts makes one very sad. Now what do you think, is happening to these children under Prohibition? When I say this, I should not be misunderstood as speaking either for or against Prohibition. I am only saying these young children are being utilized in the preparation and sale of illicit liquor. It is imperative to stop this exploitation of the young children. I have asked the Hon. Minister for Prohibition to come to the juvenile courts and see things for himself; and he has promised to do it. He is busy but his daughter sits along with me and she, I hope, conveys to him what she sees. I am glad that decontrol has come in. I am sure hereafter there will be no necessity for people to prepare fermented rice. This is a dangerous thing. I would ask a committee to examine this matter and take some action on it."

"While talking of Probation, I should say a word about Probation officers. They are doing excellent work. They fulfil a useful need in taking care of delinquent children whose parents are unable to exercise control over them. A Probation officer has to take charge of something like 70 or 80 cases of supervision plus investigation into forty cases a month."

4-45
p.m.

"Sir, the Government gives them a travelling allowance of Rs. 25, while a Sub-Inspector of Police gets Rs. 31, though these people have to cover a much bigger division than the Sub-Inspector of Police. All these men and women are doing humanitarian work and are helping many families that were broken up to become friendly again. They should be given better salaries or they should at least be given the same travelling allowance as a Sub-Inspector of Police."

"Then, Sir, as regards Scouts and Guides the Minister of Education in 1946 said that if the three organizations joined together he will increase the grant. Sir, in spite of its implementation the grant is still the same and we are receiving only Rs. 21,000. There are 40,000 Boy Scouts and 8,000 Girl Guides. Scouting is one of the finest institutions there ever was. It creates comradeship, friendship and understanding. It has no caste or creed or prestige. You do voluntary work. The child does it for the love of the work; he does his good turn every day. Besides this comradeship we are training disciplined young people. But, Sir, the grant that is given does not cover the cost of the staff. It is a voluntary effort and we certainly need to have more camp sites. A Camp Committee was appointed by the Government of Madras several years ago. We have beautiful camp sites around here and we gave our findings—very modest findings—to the Government. The Minister for Education is a very kind-hearted and

7th July 1952]

[Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

understanding gentleman and I hope he will find some means by which we could have these camps and take our children to them; and the staff would also have the facility to join these camps and guide the children so that they may get some healthy out-door exercise and training.

“Sir, turning to my pet subject, social welfare work, I am very sorry that we do not get the encouragement that the other States get for social welfare work, and looking specially at the Hon. the Chief Minister, I am pleading with him. I do not know, Sir, whether the Hon. Chief Minister is aware how much voluntary workers and social workers are doing in this State for the prestige of good work. Large sums of money are being spent as they should be spent on roads, dams, etc., that are essential. Good social work is also essential, to understand the people and bring contentment to them. Political leaders bring to the Hon. Chief Minister the peoples' discontent. We can also bring to him their discontent but we alleviate their discontent. We understand them and are able to make them understand us. Now, Sir, with regard to two volunteer institutions which now Government are running, specially the Vigilance Department, now a department of the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools, is doing good work and it was so even before it was provincialized. I remember going to Rajaji when he was the Chief Minister on a former occasion for some further grants. He said that his Cabinet was then resigning and that I might try elsewhere. The Government have now taken it over. This Vigilance department is dealing with the important work of the rescue of young girls who are going astray or may go astray. Mrs. V. T. Lakshmi, the Chief Vigilance worker, has turned out excellent results. I have had the honour to preside over the All-India Moral and Social Hygiene Conference in Raj Bhavan, Calcutta. Ours is the only State where the Government takes care of rescued women. We have done wonderful reclamation work and we should see that any money that is spent on this work is not wasted and the rescued girls who are placed in a cramped place should be provided with better accommodation.

“Sir, the Women's Welfare Department, of which I was one of the founder members, has now become a government department. When a thing becomes governmental, the governmental people make it so very governmental that they do not want the voluntary worker. We are no more in these agencies. All I can say is this ‘Why do you do away with the voluntary workers in such agencies?’ I am very sorry to see that in all the districts where the volunteers took an active part, they are no more there and it is all in the hands of the governmental Department of Women's Welfare. The Women's Welfare Department and also other volunteer agencies have done wonderful work for Rayalaseema.

“Sir, for so many years we have been pressing on the Government the need to start a school for social work. In all other States in India such schools have been started and many people have

[Mrs. 'M. N. Olubwala]

[7th July 1952]

written to us asking us to send some workers to get trained as Madras people are so intelligent and have turned out excellent welfare work. But, we are not able to comply with these requests. Many intelligent boys and girls come to us and ask us to train them. The Government appointed a Committee in 1946 and various schemes were drawn up but the Government did not proceed with them. We then pressed on the Minister for Education and we prepared a very modest scheme with a non-recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 and a recurring grant of Rs. 19,000. At one time we were hopeful that the scheme would come into being but somehow it was dropped. But now, Sir, we are going ahead on an entirely voluntary basis and we hope to start the school next week. I thank the Government for having given us the support of their advisers and I hope it will not be long before the Government will give us some recognition. Sir, there is a sort of security in Government organisations and we have been promised many other helps from other agencies and one gentleman has promised us a handsome donation if Government recognise us. And I hope, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Education and the Hon. Minister for Finance will listen to my pleadings.

“ Sir, I have been to the neighbouring State of Hyderabad. They have got a Social Welfare Minister, a twenty-three year old gentleman. He is so keen on social work that he is coming here to study some of our activities. I think, Sir, that in some other State also further up in the North they have appointed a Social Welfare Minister. We have requested our Government also to have a Social Welfare Minister. If the Hon. Chief Minister does not think that a lady is more suited for this portfolio, I may mention, there are many social workers among the Ministers. Some of them have been my colleagues in social work. I know they are good social workers. Many agencies are getting large grants from Government, though one, the Guild of Service, works on a voluntary basis. How nice it would be to have one Minister with the portfolio of Social Welfare to look after these things instead of going from Minister to Minister and from Secretary to Secretary. It would help to go to one person. I think, there is still an Honorary Director of Harijan Welfare. If the Government do not think that social work is so important as to have a separate Minister then they could at least have an Honorary Director of Social Welfare to provide the necessary encouragement to social welfare agencies.

“ Social welfare workers in other States are already getting a lot of money from their Government. Now, Sir, what I am going to suggest for raising money may not be liked by many. I am a royal beggar. I beg from morning till night for some cause or other. You cannot always patronise dramas. We may love our artistes but we cannot be asking the public to see the same artistes again and again nor can we go over and over again to the same people to sell Rs. 100 or Rs. 50 donor tickets. Permit us, Sir, to have carnivals. The Provincial Welfare Fund ran a carnival.

7th July 1952] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwala]

We were having lucky prize tickets and gave very nice prizes donated by generous donors. Sir, we were also having darts and rings. You cannot make people just pay without giving them some pleasure. Suddenly, the Police came and said that it was illegal and stopped it. Again, Sir, I am quoting the case of the State of Hyderabad. Ten days ago they were running a motor car raffle and under the aegis of the Government they have raised a large sum of money for relief to Rayalaseema. Nearly Rs. 5 lakhs was raised earlier by them for social welfare. I am not a gambler and I am not interested in gambling. I would only request you to consider this question and to give us facilities for a raffle as you do know, Sir, that our work is expanding more and more and we do need more and more money. The rules may kindly be relaxed.

“ Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to mention two more things. Sir, I would like to support very much what my hon. Friend, Sri Venkatachalam, said about art and culture. A thing of beauty is a joy for ever. However busy one may be, it is a pleasure to see beautiful things of art and we enlarge our knowledge through our eyes because what you see with your eyes is very much registered in your mind more than what you continuously study from books. I hope much more encouragement will be given to our famous artistes and the Government will take steps to pay these artistes to give free performances in our public parks and similar places where every man and woman will have the advantage of listening to the music of beautiful artistes and see their dances.

“ Lastly, Sir, let us do something about this beggar problem. You cannot go to any shop, or stop at a bus stand or tram stop without these beggars worrying you. You cannot travel in a train up to Guntakal or to Vijayavada without these urchins getting into your compartment and abusing you and very often trying to rob you. There are a number of voluntary agencies who will undertake the running of homes for these beggars. Please let us have a committee to go into the ways and means position. Let us go slow. They will employ only the minimum staff but they will be of immense help. I hope, Sir, these requests from a social worker will meet with some consideration and some thought from our Hon. the Chief Minister. Great man as he is, I shall say he is a greater social worker. I thank you, Sir.”

* SRI V. RAMAKRISHNA:—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity, on behalf of my party, to congratulate the Hon. the Leader of the House on his food policy. Decentralisation of foodgrains by Rajaji will go down in the history of this country as one of the greatest and most courageous acts of statesmanship. Controls, as hon. Members are aware, have been the cause of most of our corrupt practices, blackmarketing and disrespect for law. With the abolition of controls, I believe there will be a steady improvement in moral standards and they will be restored to their former

[Sri V. Ramakrishna]

[7th July 1952]

levels. Decontrol has also helped the agricultural producer. We have had a raw deal since the introduction of controls during the regime of the Advisers; especially the Andhra producer was badly affected. The price fixed for rice in this State was sometimes as low as 60 per cent of that prevailing in the neighbouring States. Andhra which is a predominantly exporting area with an annual surplus of about 3 lakhs of tons has suffered a great deal. At last at the hands of one, who is supposed to be anti-Andhra, the Andhra agriculturists have received a fair deal. Even my hon. Friend, Sri T. Prakasam, has failed to give the same deal which Rajaji has today given them. Sir, the stand taken by my party in supporting Rajaji's Government has been fully justified by his acceptance of one of the fundamental planks of our programme, namely, decontrol of foodgrains. I agree, Sir, with my hon. Friend, Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar, that the greatest need of the hour is a strong and stable Government under Rajaji's leadership. Rajaji is one of the best and ablest Congress leaders in this country. He is also the greatest living Gandhian. May I, therefore, appeal to him to form a Government representative of all the democratic forces in the State who believe in the Gandhian principles of non-violence and truth?

5 p.m. "The two most important problems which are today agitating the minds of the Andhras are the formation of the Andhra State and the utilisation of the waters of the Krishna and the Godavari rivers. I am afraid, Sir, there is no proper lead from most of the Andhra leaders in regard to the formation of an Andhra State. If an Andhra State is to be formed without the City of Madras, which I understand is agreed to by the Communist Party, the new Andhra State will be a bankrupt State. It would have a deficit of about four to five crores of rupees every year. I am sure, Sir, that no thinking Andhra would ever agree to the formation of a bankrupt State like the proposed Andhra State. Nor would it be fair to our Tamilian brethren that we should ask them to part with the Madras City and saddle themselves with a deficit State. That part in which the Madras City is included would be a State with a balanced budget. And the other part to which the City of Madras is not added would be a State with an unbalanced budget, and this part will not be able to carry on even the police functions of the State, let alone the welfare activities of a modern State.

"If we have an Andhra State, to-day, without the city of Madras, what will be the consequences? The two major projects which are now under construction—Tungabhadra and Machkund projects—cannot be completed by the new Andhra State, and a further Rs. 20 crores would be required for their completion. An Andhra State which has a large element of Communists will not be able to borrow money either from the Government of India or from the general public."

SRI C. RAJESWARA RAO:—"We will confiscate."

7th July 1952]

* SRI V. RAMAKRISHNA:—“ My hon. Friend thinks that Andhras have large amounts of money. It is not correct. The revenue derived from sales tax in the Andhra portion of the State is about Rs. 3 crores; and about 12 crores, being the balance of the revenue derived from this tax, is derived from the rest of this State. This is a clear indication of the ability of Andhras to help their State. Let my hon. Friends take heed of this fact that we are poor, and that we have no taxable capacity. A bankrupt Andhra State will only be helpful to my Communist friends for their propaganda purposes and it may serve them as a spring board from which they will be able to conquer the rest of India.

“ Sir, something must be done to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Andhras. I think, Sir, administrative division of the State with political unity will be the best transitional solution in the existing circumstances. I would suggest, the same Legislature and the same Governor may function; and the Ministry may have two sections, the Andhra section presided over by a Deputy Chief Minister if the Chief Minister happens to be a non-Andhra. This would satisfy not only the political aspirations—aspirations for office—of the people but also provide a machinery which will be able to devote more of its attention to the problems in the respective parts of the State. Administrative division of the State is not difficult to achieve. We have already in several departments, a Director and a Joint Director, a Registrar and a Joint Registrar and so on and so forth. At present they have functional jurisdiction. All that we have to do is to give them territorial jurisdiction and we need not spend any more money in increasing establishments. We may also build up a convention whereby the revenues collected in the several parts of the State will be spent in those parts with a proportionate share from the surplus accruing from the City of Madras on the basis of population. A further convention may also be set up, providing for the employment of Andhras in the Andhra area wherever possible and practicable. If these things are done, I am sure, the great majority of Andhras, leaving aside the idealists and careerists, would be willing to accept this solution. This solution will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Andhras and save us from bitterness, bankruptcy and possibly political suicide.

“ Turning to the utilisation of the waters of the Krishna river and the Godavari river, it is most unfortunate that the previous Government should have put up proposals for the sanction of the Krishna-Pennar scheme. It has created bitterness among the Andhras. It has helped political propagandists and interested parties to tell the people that the project is primarily intended for the benefit of the Tamilians. Therefore, Sir, in planning we must take into consideration political reactions also apart from purely economic and national aspects. If the same project were to be developed at Nandikonda instead of at Siddheswaram as was proposed by the previous Government, it would serve the interests of the country well, as a whole, by producing large quantities of

[Sri V. Ramakrishna]

[7th July 1952]

food. It would also provide irrigation facilities for Nellore, Guntur, Krishna and parts of Kurnool districts. It would supply all the power required for developing lignite deposits in South Arcot district, which are the greatest single source of national wealth we have in the Madras State.

“ Sir, lignite deposits cannot now be extracted as they are underlain and overlain with streams of artesian water. Recent investigations have shown that these artesian waters take their origin mainly from the Cauvery delta. The Cauvery delta, as most hon. Members are aware, is suffering from bad drainage which seriously affects the production of food. If we can develop the lignite deposits and pump the artesian water by producing power at Nandikonda and transmitting it to South Arcot district, we can not only develop our lignite deposits but also utilise the water pumped for irrigation purposes in South Arcot and Chingleput districts and for supplying the City of Madras with its necessary drinking water.

“ Sir, this scheme also would help us in the defence of our country. To-day we are mostly depending for our petrol supplies either on Muslim countries or on other foreign countries. Sir, in the event of a war or any trouble, we can easily be starved out of petrol and we will not be able to defend ourselves. Sir, the only way of saving this country from any such calamity will be to produce the petrol required by us by installing synthetic oil plants. By producing power at Nandikonda and transmitting it to the lignite deposits in South Arcot district, we can produce lignite, provide water for South Arcot and Chingleput districts and the City of Madras and also put up a synthetic oil plant with a capacity of 50,000 tons per annum. Sir, I would respectfully submit for the consideration of this Government that they should give the highest priority for the development of lignite deposits.

“ There is one other aspect. There can be no further industrial development in this State because of the failure of the railway system to handle our traffic. Unless the railway line north of Madras is doubled, the present railway system will not be able to handle any more traffic. The only solution to that problem also is to develop the lignite deposits of South Arcot. To-day one-third of the entire rolling stock and engine capacity and the entire line are being utilised for the transport of coal from North India. All these can be saved if we develop our lignite deposits. Not only that, it would also enable us to earn a lot of foreign exchange by selling lignite to countries like Japan, Malaya and Ceylon.

“ Now turning to the Budget, Sir, I believe there is a lot of scope for retrenchment. I would suggest for the consideration of the Government the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee. I believe, Sir, with the existing expenditure, we can double the amount of work turned out by the existing establishments, and

7th July 1952] [Sri V. Ramakrishna]

thereby increase not only the efficiency but also all the functions of the Welfare State. We are spending a lot of money on buildings. I believe, Sir, that by adopting different standards of construction and constructional materials, as in other countries, we can easily cut down our expenditure, which we are now incurring in constructing new buildings and in erecting electric transmission lines and poles in our electrical undertakings. I would suggest, Sir, for the consideration of the Hon. Finance Minister, that the Government should, in the best interests of the administration, appoint a Committee which would not only go into retrenchment of staff but also suggest measures for effecting economy in constructional methods and materials. Unfortunately or fortunately, our long association with the British has made us adopt standards of construction which are unnecessary and out of date.

“ I would suggest to the Hon. Minister for Industries that it would be very unwise to go on with the running of the Vanaspathi Factory. There is a provision of about a crore of rupees for running that factory. My hon. Friends who have any knowledge of either business or industry know well that embarking on purchase and sale of groundnut oil or groundnuts either for conversion into Vanaspathi or refining at the present time is a very hazardous task. I would suggest that the Government should leave it to some private individual to run the factory and pay the Government as much as possible. Even if I were running that factory, I would not hesitate at the present juncture to close it down and wait for better times. Especially where a Department of Government is concerned, they are tied down to so many rules and regulations and they would have no freedom to buy materials at the lowest price and sell them when the market is good. Any delay would be fatal and so, I would suggest that we defer the running of the factory for the time being until better times come or lease it out. I believe one of the objectives of starting the factory was to train men, but I may tell him that very few Vanaspathi factories are running to-day in the State and there is really no demand for trained personnel for Vanaspathi factories and this objective will not also be vitiated.

5-15
p.m.

“ As regards the new taxation proposals, I would submit that they should be referred to a Joint Select Committee who might go into them. But one submission I would make with regard to the surcharge on bus fares. Instead of levying it, I think it would be better to sell the right to run the buses in public auction. I know that it could not be done without an amendment of the existing Act. Even if we want to levy this surcharge, we will have to do the same thing. But if we adopt the other course, we will not only get Rs. 2 crores which the Hon. the Minister for Finance wants but we might get double the amount.

“ Regarding motor transport, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister in charge that it would be much better to denationalise it. I am sorry to confess that I am one of those who wanted to nationalise motor transport. Possibly, I had a larger share in

[Sri V. Ramakrishna]

[7th July 1952]

nationalising than any single individual in this State but experience has shown that unless these institutions are run by men who have knowledge and experience and who can act without official red-tape, there is little chance of making any business running as a Department of Government a success. It would, therefore, be in the interests of the finances of the State that even the State Transport should be transferred to private enterprise provided we get a satisfactory increase in income.

"As regards land revenue surcharge, may I suggest that until the question of limitation of holdings is decided, it might not be very wise to levy this surcharge. Unless the exemption limit is raised to Rs. 150 to Rs. 200, its incidence might fall very heavily on agriculturists. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that this question might be deferred till the question of land tenure reform is decided.

"Turning to betterment levy, I consider it very necessary for the development of the country but I am sorry to observe that the scheme as proposed is not scientifically planned and I would suggest that the whole question be referred to a Joint Select Committee who might go into the whole question profiting by the experience of other countries and evolve a system which would serve the needs of the case."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"Hereafter I would prescribe a time-limit of ten minutes for each Member."

* SRI K. SURYANARAYANA:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the policy of the Government in respect of decontrol of foodstuffs and suspension of assignment of lands to political sufferers. The common man feels relief for extricating him from the resultant evils of controls and procurement, for which the Government deserve congratulations. I am gratified to find that the tone of administration too is gradually improving after the assumption of leadership by Sri Rajagopalachari, but I am constrained to say, Sir, that the local Congress bosses in some places are still over-riding and intimidating the officers to go out of the way and do things arbitrarily, to meet their evil ends. For instance at Amalapuram, the brother-in-law of Sri Kala Venkata Rao often interferes, accompanied with threats, with the due discharge of the duties by the officers. If such sort of bossing is allowed to continue unchecked in the day-to-day administration, the people have to curse themselves for enthroning the Congress. It is such undue interference in time and out of time with the day-to-day administration that was mainly responsible for the rout of the Congress in the recent elections.

"The Budget proposals as they stand at present do not infuse any confidence or hope in the common man. Especially the taxation proposals in respect of surcharge on bus fares will certainly hit hard the lower middle classes and labour classes. The minimum limit of exemption for surcharge on land revenue has to be

7th July 1952] [Sri K. Suryanarayana]

raised to Rs. 100 so that the lower middle classes possessing five or six acres of land may not be made to bear the extra burden.

With regard to Local Administration, it is pertinent to examine the nurseries of democracy, namely, the municipalities in our State. The elected representatives in the municipal councils have no privileges or powers to provide amenities to the rate-payers. The executive functions, which are very important, so far as the day-to-day administration is concerned, are not vested in their elected head, namely, the Chairman, but are vested in the Government-appointed and Government-controlled agency called the Executive Authority. The other departmental heads such as the Municipal Health Officer, the Civil Engineer and the Electrical Engineer are appointed and controlled by the Government through their respective departmental heads. The elected council is responsible to its electorate while the Chief Executive Authority and other departmental heads are responsible to the Government. Even in the deliberative field, the decision of the elected council is not final. It can be vetoed or modified by the State Government. If an elected person is competent to exercise executive functions, in the State Government, and even in the district boards, how does it stand to reason that he is not a suitable agency to exercise executive functions in the municipal administration of this State? If this queer theory is correct, then there is no need for the Council of Ministers in this State. It is enough if they can pass enactments from time to time and lay down policies which can be executed by permanent Secretaries. What necessity is there to discriminate between municipalities and district boards? There is a growing feeling among the public that the Government are hesitant to abolish the posts of Commissioners in the present form due to the personal interest on the part of some of the bigwigs in the Commissioners. It is not open to any Government, much less a democratic Government, to take away the powers that are inherently and constitutionally vested by the electorate in their representatives and transfer them to an authority super-imposed upon them. It is repugnant to democracy. It is deplorable that such an undemocratic Act should still find a place in the Sovereign Republic of India. The present Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, completely deprived the elected representative of his initiative and reduced him to the position of a mere advisory body—an advisory body in some cases and an approving authority in some others.

“Even the much-boasted Village Panchayat Act recently enacted by the previous Ministry runs parallel to the District Municipalities Act and reduces the elected President to the position of a figurehead.

“The Chamber of Chairmen, sponsored by the then Minister for Local Administration met many times and made many suggestions, and the Government too have appointed an investigation

[Sri K. Suryanarayana] [7th July 1952]

Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar and they submitted their report long ago, but no action has yet been taken by the Government.

“ If the Government really mean business and if they really want the towns and the villages to be training centres and nurseries of democracy for the future administrators, the recommendations of the Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar Committee should be implemented without further delay.

“ The burning topic of the day is Prohibition. I was as much in favour of Prohibition as any other Member who claims to be in favour of Prohibition, but in spite of the fact that I am a teetotaler and an advocate of Prohibition for the last 30 years, I am constrained to change my view and observe that Prohibition is a thorough failure. Illicit distillation of arrack has become a cottage industry. Even members of the communities that are religiously prohibited or hitherto not professed to trade in intoxicants have resorted to illicit distillation. Almost every alternate house has been converted into an illicit distillery. Now that illicit arrack, though injurious to health, is available in houses; even women and children get addicted to drink resulting in the failure of their health, thus weakening the strength of the nation.

“ Respect for law and order is just now waning. Illicit distillation is going on everywhere with impunity of course with the connivance or approval of the Prohibition and Police departments. I hail from that unfortunate community of tappers, the Settibaliya community in the Circar districts, and as such, I am in a much better position to probe into the malpractices with an inner sight, and so I may be allowed the indulgence, if I claim some weight to my observations. Sir, you may not be surprised if I say that the proprietors of illicit distilleries are openly selling their produce as if they are owners of licensed arrack shops, of course each one paying a nominal contribution of only Rs. 400 or 500 for each shop according to the volume of the business plus free drinks to the employees of the Prohibition and Police departments. The Prohibition staff, just to show that they are vigilant, are able to get cases almost by quotas and turns, just as consignees of yarn quotas get theirs, of course with the willing co-operation, consent and support of illicit distillers. In addition, they book only the miserable underlings who are presumed or proved to be unprofitable.

“ On account of pursuing this unenforceable and futile policy of Prohibition, the Government have been not only losing considerable revenue, but are also maintaining the huge paraphernalia of the Prohibition department costing crores of rupees every year, jeopardising more important and beneficial schemes aimed at the well-being and progress of the country at large. Under these peculiar circumstances and when it is apparent that it is an utter failure, Prohibition, though introduced with a pious motive to improve the social habits and economic position of the masses,

7th July 1952] [Sri K. Suryanarayana]

deserves scrapping. If the Government say, Excise Revenue is tainted money, then why are the Government collecting sales tax from the beggars and sanyasis even on their daily necessities of life?

"Consequent upon the introduction of Prohibition, the ex-tappers and their families are put to untold privation for no fault of theirs. The Government have failed to discharge their elementary duty of providing alternate employment or granting subsistence allowance or doles to the ex-tappers forcibly thrown out of employment. Government orders were issued for the assignment of waste lands, but it appears that not even a single cent of land was assigned to these unfortunate and miserable ex-tappers. The ameliorative department with the Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies in charge in the districts, is content with opening a very few milk co-operative societies here and there and, very recently, a few palmyrah jaggery societies. Last year just on the eve of the elections, licences for tapping sweet toddy were ordered to be issued at a few selected places in the East Godavari district, and even that to a favoured few to attract votes. The representations made even before the introduction of Prohibition enumerating the resultant consequence were not considered, and the result is the miserable plight of hundreds of thousands of ex-tappers. In order to solve unemployment and improve the lot of the unwanted and uncared for ex-tappers, I suggest that licences to tap sweet toddy be issued liberally with permission to sell 'Neera' till 10 a.m., and without collecting any tax for the trees in the Government lands."

* DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, 5-30
when I rise, I rise to support the Budget which has been placed P.M.
before this House for consideration, by the Hon. Finance Minister and the Hon. Leader of the House. While doing so, I bring to the notice of this House that when we met last time during the last session here, we were enveloped by drought conditions all round and the City of Madras and several districts in our State were faced with acute water scarcity. Thanks to Providence and by the prayers of our Premier and also the prayers of others, we had rains in plenty and the water scarcity which was threatening the City of Madras has been solved; but for which, I think, many of the hon. Members who have now come to the City from the mufassal would have had a taste of it themselves.

"Now, Sir, coming to the Budget, It should congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for, when there are large demands from every quarter and from every party, he is able to satisfy them by taking up large schemes in these hard days and at the same time present a good Budget, though a deficit one. At the same time, he is able to satisfy most of us. My hon. Friend on the other side, Sri Chakkarai Chetty yesterday gave an analogy that many of the families are spending more than their income and yet they are able to manage. It is not an apt analogy but I consider it an

[Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu] [7th July 1952]

apology for an analogy. Yesterday, we were sufficiently educated by our Premier how the Budget should be framed. The budget which is to be framed for a family is quite different from the budget that is to be framed for the Government. When we frame a budget for a family, we take into consideration the incomes first and then expenditure; we cut our coat according to the cloth. But in the case of the Government, the reverse is the order of framing the Budget. First of all, we have to take into consideration the expenditure that the State has to incur and then we have to take into consideration the income. If the income is more than the expenditure, then we have a surplus Budget. If our income is less than the expenditure, it is a deficit Budget, as it is the case now. Here the question arises whether we are cutting the coat according to the cloth we have. I think, before purchasing the cloth, we have to take the measurements, then purchase the cloth and then cut the cloth according to the measurements we have made. That is the simple proposition which learned Members on the opposite side should understand and I think, the hon. Member Mr. Chakkarai Chetty started on a wrong assumption and naturally that led him to a wrong conclusion, and so he could not support the Budget.

“ Sir, in the Interim Budget for 1952-53 the revenues had been estimated on the then existing basis of taxation. Revenue, as shown in the present Budget, is Rs. 6,176 lakhs as against Rs. 6,390 lakhs in the Interim Budget. Expenditure on the Revenue Account in the present Budget is Rs. 6,535 lakhs as against Rs. 6,476 lakhs in the Interim Budget. The Finance Department had taken into account the actuals from April 1st to November, when they prepared the Interim Budget. Subsequently they had to consider several expenses and so the present Budget naturally would give them a deficit Budget. Another big mistake that is committed by our people is the asking for a reduction in the capital expenditure. Our people—both sides I should say—are making a deliberate mistake in confusing the capital expenditure with the revenue expenditure. Now is it possible for people to effect reduction in the capital expenditure? At the time when Congress came to power for the first time, it had a revenue of Rs. 18 crores which has now gone up to Rs. 60 crores. When the revenue was Rs. 18 crores, the expenditure was also about the same figure and the population then was not as much as it is to-day and so they were able to present balanced budgets in those days. When the revenue has gone up to Rs. 60 crores, I think, expenditure should correspondingly rise. At present it is about Rs. 60 crores. Sir, we must move with the times and with the demands. Unfortunately during the previous regime, the ex-Minister Sri Gopala Reddi, was in charge of Finance and he became unpopular because of his taxation proposals. There is no use blaming him, for when demands were made from so many quarters, and more particularly from the Opposition parties, he had to meet their demands somehow or other and present a balanced Budget.

7th July 1952] [Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu]

“ Sir, after the inception of the new Constitution, the Hon. Sri Subramaniam has become the Finance Minister under the able leadership of our Premier, Rajaji, and, I am sure, Sri Subramaniam's name will be on the lips of everybody because there are some fresh taxation proposals put before us for balancing the Budget. However much he tried, he could not balance the Budget. Therefore, he has presented a deficit Budget in the face of great demands from all quarters. People have been asking for new irrigation schemes, new social activities, community projects and the like. How is the Hon. Finance Minister or the Government to meet those demands unless there are sufficient funds in the Government treasury? Unfortunately for us, famine has visited us and thanks to the Government and to the Central Government for the immediate relief they gave us—in this connection I should express my thanks to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and his department for the immediate relief they gave us by doing splendid work in the famine-stricken areas—we have staved off famine. Though we have drawn money for meeting these expenses from our reserves in spite of the liberal donations given by our Prime Minister of India, we had to meet certain difficulties. I think, the difficulties of the Finance Minister are very many and it will not be possible for anybody in his place—even from the Opposition side—to present a balanced Budget. I challenge, let anybody from the opposite side placed in his position present a balanced Budget. It will be humanly impossible for anybody from the opposite side to present a balanced Budget. I am giving my opinion. The Government have to consider very many problems and they have given their mature consideration and finally they have come to the conclusion of presenting, no doubt, a deficit Budget. If you are really interested in the welfare of the country and in sponsoring various schemes—irrigation schemes and the like—you must really vote for this Budget.

“ Sir, I was really very much pained when I heard the Members on the opposite side talking about reduction in the Police department. Well, whatever may be the defects in the Police administration and whatever may be the commissions and omissions on the part of the Police, it is our duty to realise that they have a hard task to perform. Police is a very important department. You can effect retrenchment in other departments to any extent but not in the Police department. But for the Police department, I do not think anybody is safe in our country. I know my hon. Friends on the opposite side may take exception to what I say but I cannot help it. You might have read in the papers of the atrocities committed by the Communists on the borders of Hyderabad State and in several other places (interruption). Well, I know Communists are committing atrocities in the garb of Police people. What more do you want? They dress themselves as policemen and they threaten and rob the people of their money and belongings. I know of several instances. I can give one or two graphic instances. In my place in North Arcot district, murders have been committed. In the Gudiyattam taluk, when the people

[Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu] [7th July 1952]

were going in buses or cars, they were waylaid by people and actually stabbed and robbed of their moneys and that is the state of affairs. I now understand why our Communist Friends want to do away with the Police. If there is no Police, they will have a free field where their ideologies can be implemented and where they can thrive. I know where they thrive. The Hon. Finance Minister has ably put it on the day when he replied on the motion of thanks to the Governor. Their ideologies thrive where ignorance prevails, where illiteracy prevails and where people are poor and gullible. Therefore, it is no surprise for me to hear my Communist Friends saying that they want to do away with as many policemen as possible. I request the Hon. the Chief Minister who is in charge of the Police portfolio not to reduce even one policeman but on the other hand increase their number. Sir, I know a case where a Police Sub-Inspector who went for a raid in connection with a Prohibition case was beaten black and blue and he was so beaten that he was not able to identify the criminals and the case filed against the criminals had to be withdrawn.

5-45
p.m. “ Sir, when you take an organization or an institution to see whether it is placed on a sound basis, you take into consideration its liabilities and assets. Now, when we do so with regard to our State, I see, on going through the Budget presented to us by our Finance Minister, that our liabilities as they stood on March 31, 1952, amount to Rs. 42 crores, while the assets held on the same day under Capital and Remunerative assets come to Rs. 131 crores. Therefore, Sir, this is proof positive to show that our State is being run on very sound lines. I may tell you, Sir, we got our Independence ten years earlier than we expected, and we are glad that we are faring better than can be expected of one in our position. Here I must tell you that the whole world is watching us with admiration and it will not be long before world leadership will be thrust on us. That is the position that India is occupying in the comity of nations to-day. So I request our Friends to make common cause with the Government and support it, so that we may not be found wanting to take up the leadership of the world when the occasion arises.

“ Then, Sir, I wish to say a word about elementary education. Elementary education should be free and compulsory. That should be the primary concern of the State. In fact, it should be the first charge on the Government's purse. Then with regard to the partiality that is now shown as between the secondary grade teacher employed in elementary schools and the same secondary grade teacher employed in secondary schools, I think the scales of pay are different. The salary of the secondary grade teacher employed in elementary schools is less than that of the same grade of teacher employed in secondary schools. That sort of difference should be done away with. Not only that. Government have deprived the secondary grade teacher employed in elementary schools of his birthright. That is, he cannot exercise his franchise

7th July 1952] [Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu]

in the elections. That is a great handicap for this grade of teacher. We must take steps to see that the teacher's profession is made as attractive as possible so that proper kind of men can come forward to take to this profession to teach and to mould the character of the future citizens of our motherland.

Then, Sir, there are about 42,000 students declared eligible for collegiate course in the recent S.S.L.C. examination. About fifty per cent of them may seek admission into colleges but there is provision only for eleven or twelve thousand students. So I am appealing to the Government and to the University to allow students to appear privately for the University examinations without insisting on the attendance at lectures. The University of Nagpur and a few other universities, I understand, do not insist on such attendance, except in regard to technical subjects. If this is done also in our University, Government would save a good deal of expenditure on expansion of buildings and appliances. I hope Government will give this matter their earnest consideration.

"Coming to Public Health, I may tell you, Sir, Government have not granted for Public Health as much as they have granted for Education. Education, of course, is the primary concern of the Government. But all the same, Public Health has not been provided for adequately. I thank the Government for opening the tuberculosis ward in our district hospital. Tuberculosis carries away thousands of people annually in our State. It is a disease which manifests itself when the body resistance goes down. When such is the case, do you think that the people would be maintaining their resistance power during the days of rationing? So the incidence of tuberculosis must have been on the increase during the days of ration. So the best preventive is to provide people with nutritious food. This is a good case for decontrol. Now that decontrol has been effected, I hope our people will be eating to their hearts' content.

"Then, Sir, with regard to tuberculosis work, in spite of what we have been doing, poor patients are now not receiving adequate treatment. In this matter, I suggest to Government that they should start two mobile medical units in each district, a big van equipped with an X-ray plant with all the up-to-date appliances needed for this purpose, to travel from village to village, take the X-ray photo of suspected cases of tuberculosis, put them into contact with the nearest hospital and give them proper treatment. It is only in that way the disease can be properly tackled. Another thing I would commend to Government is the introduction of mass X-ray, just as is being done in the Continent. Every taluk headquarters hospital or district headquarters hospital must be able to take X-ray photographs and those photos should be studied by experts, and if they detect tuberculosis in any form, the patients should be at once placed under treatment. I know of several cases of patients being put on the waiting list for admission as in-patients and by the time they receive their admission cards their condition becomes worse and beyond recovery.

[Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu] [7th July 1952]

“ With regard to cancer treatment, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddiably put the case. It can be kept under control if only adequate and timely steps are taken.

“ Then, with regard to rural medical dispensaries, it is a well-known fact that for want of doctors those dispensaries are not manned. Why? The subsidies given are not adequate. I understand, Sir, from reliable quarters that Government are introducing a shorter course in medicine. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that when the Congress Government was first formed in this State under the leadership of Rajaji, the then Minister for Public Health, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, was approached by the general medical profession to do away with the Diploma course in medicine. We demanded that it should be mended or ended. Prior to that there was a distinction made between L.M.S. and M.B.B.S. And the Diploma course was ended. Therefore, Sir, you cannot make a difference between a man living in a village and one living in a town. The human system in both cases is the same for treatment. What is the use of sending doctors who are not well qualified, to villages? In fact there is a case for sending good doctors only to the mufassal, as it is not possible for the poor people in the mufassal to go to towns for medical treatment. Therefore, it is necessary that Government should send only the best qualified medical men to rural parts.

“ Then, Sir, one word with regard to firka development. This scheme came in during Mr. Prakasam's Ministry. With a view to give a fillip to cottage industries and to make the village self-sufficient, the firka development scheme was started. Let me examine the scheme a little. I am not at all satisfied with it. Our Finance Minister is true in his observation that the result of firka development is not spectacular. It is quite so; it is not spectacular. Just take into consideration the person put in charge of the firka development. He is a non-technical man. All the same, he has got to do teaching work and engineering work and so on. The travelling allowance drawn by the inspecting officers is more than the salary earmarked for them. I suggest that firka development may be entrusted to the Rotarians in each district. Every district has a Rotary Club and it may be asked to carry on community service. At present the men engaged in firka development are working under the Collector of the district. I suggest the work may be entrusted to the Rotary Club. Our Chairman was once a Rotarian. He was the Governor of the Rotary Clubs for some years. We all know what wonderful and splendid work the Rotary Clubs have done in the cause of community service. So I commend to the Hon. Chief Minister that firka development may be entrusted to the Rotarians, as the results achieved so far are not spectacular. The Rotary Club consists of specialists in every department, specialists in engineering, specialists in medicine and so on. It is a Club which consists of officers only, and so in its actual working there will not be any trouble. So I strongly commend my suggestion to the Hon. Chief Minister.

7th July 1952] [Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu]

" Then, Sir, so far as agriculture is concerned, extension of electricity has to be done quickly. I know several schemes for extension of electricity are ready for execution but they could not be proceeded with for want of materials. North Arcot is a dry district and I urge Government to provide the materials required by the department for these schemes. I know that the Madras Government have got 1,500 oil engines and that they have been lent on hire purchase. But one-fifth of that number has gone to Chingleput. I do not know why this preference should be shown to one district. I want the Hon. Minister for Industries to see that equal distribution is made of them.

" Sir, I shall finish very soon. I now come to the question of handloom weavers. We are all familiar with their present predicament. One or two years ago, I led a deputation to the Minister in charge of Industries then, and placed before him the difficulties the weavers were undergoing. He promised to give us support and he really did give us support. In those days, doles were granted. But doles cannot be a panacea for the ills of the weavers. I say, alternative work should be given to them. I know the Centre has a hold on this industry. I know of late they have relaxed control over the finer counts of yarn and over coarser cloth to be produced for the use of the poor people. But even the coarser kind of yarn, still two-thirds of it is under control; the remaining one-third of it is not under control; and it is this one-third of the coarser yarn the mill-owners are selling at low prices. The two-thirds of the controlled yarn is sold at higher rates. So there is stagnation of yarn. The handloom industry has suffered a great deal. Before controls were introduced it enjoyed a good market outside India, like Indonesia, Pakistan, Burma, etc. Now it is not able to find a market there. I request Government to find ways and means of capturing the overseas market to this industry. That will solve the problem of the handloom weavers.

" With regard to Prohibition, I am not prepared to say anything 6 p.m. because it is really a matter of faith with different people. If it had been properly enforced, I know it would have been a success. Unfortunately, it has not been properly enforced and so it has become a failure. It is no doubt a fact that every man, woman and child is now drinking. This is due to a lack of proper check over these people. I should say, Sir, that proper enforcement of laws would make Prohibition a success and, I am sure, this will be considered by a Committee.

" Sir, over-population in India is a matter of great concern. When I just take a survey of our House, I find most of the Members are on the other side of 55 and therefore this Council has been rightly called the House of Elders. Sir, I therefore, put it to this House 'Why not you advocate self-control?' I know, Sir, some section of the public will be opposed to it. As Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar has said in the World Health Organization even the Catholics were objecting to it. You will thereby not only solve the anti-Indian problem in Ceylon but also

[Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu] [7th July 1952]

the apartheid problem in South Africa. I therefore request, Sir, this House of Elders to give due consideration to this problem and see that you advocate self-control to bring the surplus population within limits."

* SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the fag end of the day, if you are not going to permit any other speaker, I would like to take as much time as possible."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—" There are many more waiting to speak."

* SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—" Sir, you therefore expect me to finish as quickly as possible. I want to begin my observations by expressing my own personal confidence in the Ministry because I belong to the Independent Party—it can be the only party where everyone is independent of all other parties. I want to express my confidence in the Ministry headed by our Chief Minister. I think under his wise and statesmanlike guidance things in our country would shape well. With these remarks, I want to make my observations on the Budget that is presented by the Hon. the Finance Minister and introduced here by the Hon. the Chief Minister's statement. There are four things upon which I would like to congratulate the Ministry: The first is the decontrol policy. The incidence of that policy has been already explained by many Members and I do not want to go still further into it. It is a very risky policy. There is every chance of a rise in prices if the situation is not properly dealt with. I welcome the move by some mirasdars in a Tanjore village that they would sell rice directly to the consumer instead of to the middlemen. Thereby they want to see that prices are not increased by the middlemen. It is a very good move and I would advocate that move for adoption by mirasdars in other villages. If all of us co-operate with the Government in seeing that prices are kept at a low level and that sufficient quantities of rice and paddy are available, this problem of decontrol would be successfully dealt with in our country.

"I want also to congratulate the Government on their policy of giving relief to the handloom industry in our country. The Hon. the Finance Minister in his speech has said he would give relief to the industry at any cost. Of course the cost of the relief has not yet been investigated by him and, if it is very great, it will swell the deficit still further. Even at the risk of swelling the deficit, the Finance Minister says that he will deal with this problem of giving relief to the handloom weavers. I know very well that the handloom weavers are employed in a very ancient industry. Our country has always been very famous for its looms and in ancient days, the looms of India had a great reputation throughout the world. The Dacca muslins are proverbially famous. Therefore, we would like to see that the handloom industry does not die in our country. As has already been pointed out, one in every thirteen is a handloom weaver and he cannot be allowed to die for want of work and for want of a means of subsistence. It is

7th July 1952] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

therefore perfectly right on the part of the Government that even at a great cost they should try to give relief to the handloom weaver.

“The third thing on which I congratulate the Government is their giving concessions to non-gazetted officers in the matter of the education of their children and also in the matter of giving free medical aid to their children. These two will be of great help to the non-gazetted officers. The concession has also been extended to the teachers and they will be thankful to the Government for this great help. The teachers whose salaries are below Rs. 300 have been given this concession but I want to point out for the consideration of Government that there are teachers in colleges also who are getting salaries below Rs. 300 and they should also be included within the scope of this concession. I know there are very many teachers in the colleges who are earning a salary of a hundred or hundred and fifty rupees and who will have to serve for more than 20 years before they get Rs. 300. It would therefore be very good if the Government will give the benefit of this concession to college teachers; I know it might increase the cost, but it will not be very much. At least, that is what I fancy would be the case. The Hon. the Finance Minister has said that more than four lakhs of people are given this concession and the cost might go up to Rs. 25 lakhs or even Rs. 50 lakhs. There is justice in this suggestion and I make this appeal on behalf of the college teachers who are getting less than Rs. 300. Then, Sir, there are the cases of the absolutely destitute orphans in our country for whom Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi pleaded so eloquently the other day. I think they should also be given this concession. The answer might be given that just as we plead for these orphans and destitutes we might plead for various other people. I think we should stop with this. The danger in leaving these destitutes without any help is that they will be taken care of by other people and they may even be brought up in faiths different from their own. This is one of the chief considerations which ought to be taken into account as regards the granting of educational concessions to orphans and destitutes.

“I then want to congratulate the Government on their thinking about Community Projects also. A doubt has been expressed whether these Community Projects will be dealt with properly and proper steps will be taken for implementing them but we may rest assured, Sir, that with your able and wise guidance and also by hastening slowly, as I would put it, from step to step, from village to village and from firka to firka—we need not hurry at all—we will be able to see that the expenditure is properly made and that results are brought about from the particular expenditure for which we are responsible. On these matters, I would like to congratulate the Government.

“Sir, there are some other matters on which I cannot equally congratulate the Government and on which I have got some doubts. I therefore want to express them before I am asked to

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [7th July 1952]

conclude. The first thing that I want to say is that I am rather afraid, and I am doubtful about the wisdom of starting irrigation schemes, all at the same time. Unfortunately this was started by the previous Ministry. Rupees 1,986 lakhs is the provision that has been made for the purpose of irrigation and electricity projects. The difficulty, therefore, lies in controlling the expenditure and seeing to the proper utilization of our monies under these schemes. Unfortunately that is the heritage of our past. But, still with some courage as the Government have shown in the matter of decontrol, even though it may be a little unpopular, I would suggest to the Government that they should slow down these irrigation schemes to suit the purpose and the finances of our country. The Hon. the Finance Minister has also said that from Rs. 43 crores our reserves have come to almost Rs. 59 lakhs and we have overdrawn on the Reserve Bank to the extent of Rs. 442 lakhs at the beginning of this year and it may be higher in the course of the year. Even though we may be thankful to the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Sri B. Rama Rau, for giving us some concessions regarding advances, it will not be really proper that we should tax the Reserve Bank to any extent at all. I would therefore plead with the Government, even at the risk of becoming a little unpopular to proceed slowly and cautiously in this matter. It is very important where lakhs of rupees are spent on irrigation schemes that we should be very careful. There are already talks about the mismanagement of the Damodar Valley Project and the Hirakud Project. Expenditure on irrigation projects should be properly controlled. I find in the Budget Memorandum that there is large disparity of about 3 to 4 lakhs in about 10 to 15 cases between the estimates and the actual expenses. How could there be so much difference between the original estimate and the present estimate? They decide upon one thing after going into the matter and on going closer into the matter they find that the expenses are increasing. I know of a case where they first decided that five spans of a bridge should be destroyed and rebuilt. They now say that the whole bridge has to be rebuilt and therefore the original estimate of 3 to 4 lakhs of rupees has now become 7 or 8 lakhs of rupees. This therefore is the difficulty in the case of these capital outlay works."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"That is the technique of getting sanction."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"It may be so, Sir, but I am anxious that we should not embark upon more schemes than we could afford to spend upon during the particular revenue year and that is why I am dwelling upon this aspect of the matter. There is one other point so far as these irrigation projects are concerned. Nowadays we are all very anxious that huge machinery should be imported for the construction of these irrigation projects. We find it very difficult to import the machinery required for our projects. It takes a good deal of time. Even if we get them, there is nobody here to repair them when they go out of order. Therefore I suggest that the Government may follow what the Hindu Rulers

7th July 1952] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

had done in the past, namely, utilizing the large man power which we have got for the execution of our irrigation projects instead of importing machinery from abroad. I believe, I brought this matter to the notice of our ex-Public Works Minister Sri Bhakthavatsalam. I plead also the same thing with our present Public Works Minister, the Hon. Sri N. Ranga Reddi. My idea may appear to be an old-fashioned one. But I would ask whether our Hindu Rulers in the past had not built huge canals and temples without utilizing any machinery at all. In the district of Tanjore, there is a big channel (Veerashola canal) dug by Veeranarayana Chola, irrigating thousands of acres. There is also an advantage in utilizing manpower instead of machinery on such schemes. We are giving relief to a large number of people by usefully employing them. That is why, during famines in Rayalaseema, large famine works were started for giving employment to the people. That is how huge temples like those, in Chidambaram, had been constructed in the olden days. Our present engineers even to-day cannot explain how those huge rocks used for the construction of the temples at Chidambaram had been brought without using cranes or lifts. (The Hon. Chief Minister: 'It took a hundred years to construct such temples.')

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"The hon. Member's time is over."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"Sir, I may be allowed to finish my speech by 6-30 because I have got some more useful things to say. I am new to this Council and I am making my first speech on the Budget. There may be other Members, Sir,—more experienced people—who can give more points for the consideration of the Government. As I am a new Member, Sir, I wish to tell the Government what all I feel on these matters. Let me, therefore, be allowed to continue, Sir."

"In the matter of capital outlay schemes, we must not be carried away by the fashions of the day and we must execute them according to the genius of our people. I hope and trust that our Minister for Public Works Department will give due consideration to all the points that I have mentioned."

"I wish to deal next, Sir, with my own particular fad—development of indigenous medicine. Unfortunately, the Hon. Minister for Public Health is not here. But there is the Hon. Chief Minister, who will communicate to the Hon. Minister for Public Health whatever things he wants. The Government of Madras have been committed to a policy of encouraging Indian medicine, from the days of the Raja of Panagal, i.e., from the year 1924. We are now in 1952. Nearly 28 years have elapsed. Still the Government have not pursued a bold policy of encouraging indigenous medicine. After 28 years, the Government have now decided to establish a College of Indian Medicine in the City of Madras. During the last 25 years, they could have established colleges at four or five places. They could have established hundreds of rural dispensaries giving indigenous medicine, and could have encouraged lakhs of Vaidyas. Unfortunately the Indian System of Medicine

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [7th July 1952]

called the 'Indigenous System of Medicine' has been condemned as unscientific. If science means experimentation, observation and inference, our Indian Medicine is the result of centuries of experiment, observation and quite a logical inference from observation and experimentation. I fail to see, how it can be called unscientific. Unfortunately during the British rule, we were guided entirely by our allopathic doctors. The allopathic system is sometimes called the Western Science. Western Science does not deal with allopathy alone. It also deals with homœopathy. But allopathy is the only thing which the British are acquainted with. Along with British rule, allopathy also came to India. Unfortunately the British people did not know anything about our indigenous system of medicine, and they condemned it as unscientific. The doctors in India who were trained according to the principles of allopathy also inherited to some extent the same feelings against the indigenous system of medicine. There are, of course, some doctors who have got great sympathy for the Indian System of Medicine. I am thankful to the Government for having appointed Dr. Guruswami Mudaliyar as the Honorary Director of Indigenous Medicine. I plead very strongly with the Government that the indigenous system of medicine is a cheap, effective system which is suited to the genius of our people and which is also very popular among the people. Ninety-eight per cent of our people resort only to the indigenous system of medicine. I know many cases of diseases which have not been cured by allopathic doctors but have been cured by doctors trained in the indigenous system of medicine. Because I plead strongly for giving relief to the people through the indigenous system of medicine. I should not be misunderstood that I am against the western system of medicine. I welcome knowledge from all parts of the world for the purpose of giving medical relief to the people of our country. What I suggest is that the indigenous system of medicine which has been keeping the health of our people for centuries may also be given a very good trial by our own National Government, at the present juncture. I appeal to the Government to start four Colleges of Indian Medicine and a number of rural dispensaries and to encourage Vaidyas. In this country allopathic doctors, unfortunately, do not feel that all systems of medicine are welcome and they look askance at the indigenous system of medicine."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"The hon. Member will please use the mike."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"It is a modern system."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"I am not used to this modern system as fixed in this Council Hall. I am used to speak before a mike but not in this very difficult way in which I have to speak before the mike here . . ."

"Our Budget should be so framed as to see that there are no large deficits, and for that purpose, our Hon. Finance Minister

7th July 1952] [Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar]

has improvised new taxation proposals. I would like to say something about those taxation proposals. Unfortunately I have not got much time. Therefore I will mention only important points. Let us first take the question of the levy of surcharge on land revenue. In our country, land revenue is at its highest level at the present time. This fact has been accepted by everybody. The Taxation Enquiry Committee which went into this matter in 1924 said that the principle of progression should not be applied in the matter of land revenue. When the Government go on levying surcharge on land revenue, they are collecting really not land revenue but something like a kind of agricultural income-tax without the incidence of agricultural income-tax. In the matter of collection of income-tax, Government collect income-tax from people who have income of Rs. 3,600 and above. But here the surcharge is proposed to be levied on people with an assessment of Rs. 50 and above. The rates of levy proposed, four annas, eight annas, twelve annas and sixteen annas on each rupee are much higher than those recommended by the Subramaniam Committee. I also want to refer to the report of the Special Officer Mr. Raghavendra Rao who suggested that more than four annas levy of surcharge was very high. He also wanted that if there was to be surcharge it should not be levied on pattadars with an assessment of Rs. 250 and below. I attach much importance to that report.

“ So far as the deficit itself is concerned, I find that it is not covered even with all these taxation proposals. I find, if the actuals regarding the expenditure to be incurred on educational concessions to the children of non-gazetted officers, on the Community Projects and other things such as relief to handloom weavers, which the Hon. Minister for Finance has stated that he will give, at any cost to the Government, are all taken into account, the deficit will be of the order of one thousand lakhs of rupees or to put it lower, will be of the order of about 500 lakhs of rupees, instead of Rs. 359 lakhs as now budgeted. I fail to see how the Government are going to balance the Budget unless they limit their expenditure on irrigation works. We have to go slow on these works in the interests of the country as a whole. If all the irrigation projects are to be taken at the same time, the difficulty I feel is, that all our cash securities and reserves will be spent away. Even with the new taxation proposals, only a portion of the deficit will be covered. The Hon. Finance Minister hopes that there will be no need for the postponement of land revenue collections. I feel, Sir, reading through newspaper reports, that the south-west monsoon is not going to be better this year . . . ”

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—“ Good men should not say these things. They should wish for better times.”

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—“ I wish, Sir, that we get the south-west monsoon at least for your sake and for your Government's sake, Sir, and for the sake of our people.”

“ The taxation proposals are going to hit hard the poor people. That is the difficulty. The poor pattadar with an assessment of Rs. 50 does not get from his land more than Rs. 500. That works

[Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar] [4th July 1952]

6 p.m.

to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 per month. He is much worse off than even a postman who gets Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 per month, as salary and dearness allowance. The question of the high cost of living has also to be taken into consideration. All commodities are selling at high prices and if in keeping with it paddy also sells at a somewhat high price, his profit will be a little. But we do not want the poor to suffer on account of that and we want the paddy prices to go down. But the Chief Minister will well remember how in the old days when the price of paddy went down, the Government of the day, of which Sir Norman Marjoribanks was the Member in charge of Revenue announced a revenue remission of Rs. 75 lakhs. It was given solely for the reason that the price of paddy was very low and without that it would be difficult for the cultivators to get on. But now what about the cost of commodities; it is very high. Cattle fodder is selling high and cattle, with the help of which the ryot is to carry on his agricultural operations, is selling at high prices. In fact all the necessities for cultivation have become dear. That is why the hon. Member Sri Chakkarai Chettiyar was saying that somehow or other in these days the pattadars were living on low incomes when the prices of commodities were high and somehow they were living in spite of debt hanging round their necks and that is why he suggested that the Government also should programme for high expenditure and low incomes; but I do not wish that the Government of Madras should do so. In whatever manner it may be, they should think of wiping out the deficit. I think I have said enough to the Government to show that the surcharge will hit the poor very hard and still more difficult to bear will be the betterment levy. From my own experience, I can tell the House how the definition of irrigation will include works undertaken to improve drainage facilities which the people have been enjoying for fifty and hundred years; such facilities will also come under the mischief of these provisions and the ryots will have to pay betterment fee. The State is under a statutory obligation to remove these difficulties. I, therefore, submit that the provision for the levy of betterment contribution must be modified to a considerable extent. Regarding the surcharge on bus fares, I wish to submit to the House that it will also hit the poor people hard and there is this further difficulty, namely, a distinction is made between the City and the mufassal. That is why our revered Ramaswami Reddiyar was saying that they were making distinctions between the urban and the rural parts of the State; the village it is that contributes towards the revenues of the State but the amenities are provided mostly in the towns. Regarding that particular matter, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that there was a memorandum submitted by the Motor Trade in which they have suggested some other alternative for this kind of levy. I submit to the Government that that scheme should receive their earnest consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN:—"The House stands adjourned till 4 p.m. to-morrow, the 8th July 1952."

The House then adjourned.